

CLAIMS:

1. A laryngoscope comprising a laryngoscope blade; a
deployable mirror; and an operating mechanism, the
5 operating mechanism being operatively associated with
the mirror for the deployment thereof, wherein the
mirror is pivotable with respect to the blade, the
association of the operating mechanism and the mirror
being such that an initial operation of the operating
10 mechanism causes the mirror to be deployed, and further
operation of the operating mechanism causes the mirror
to be pivoted with respect to the blade.
2. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the
15 mirror is pivotably mounted on a deployment assembly,
the deployment assembly being pivotably mounted on the
blade, the arrangement being such that said initial
operation of the operating mechanism causes the
deployment assembly to be pivoted with respect to the
20 blade, and said further operation of the operating
mechanism causes the mirror to be pivoted with respect
to the deployment assembly.
3. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the
25 deployment assembly comprises a deployment arm coupled
to a secondary arm so as to permit relative movement
between the deployment arm and secondary arm, the
mirror being coupled to both the deployment arm and the
secondary arm so that relative movement thereof causes
30 the mirror to pivot.
4. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the
coupling of the deployment arm and the secondary arm

includes a spring assembly biased to maintain the deployment arm and the secondary arm in a first position relative to one another, the arrangement being such that, during said initial operation of the operating mechanism, the spring assembly maintains the deployment arm and the secondary arm in the first position, and that, during said further operation of the operating mechanism, a portion of the deployment arm abuts against the blade so that the action of the operating mechanism on the deployment assembly overcomes the bias of the spring mechanism to cause relative movement of the deployment arm and the secondary arm.

5. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said spring assembly comprises a pin slidably located within a slot, and a spring arranged to act on the pin to maintain the pin in the first position within the slot.

6. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the slot is formed in the deployment arm and the pin is provided on the secondary arm.

7. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the operating mechanism comprises a lever, the lever being pivotable with respect to the blade.

8. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the lever is connected to the secondary arm by a tie.

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9. A laryngoscope as claimed in any of claims 3 to 8, wherein the mirror is provided with a mounting bracket, the mounting bracket being pivotably mounted on the

deployment arm, the secondary arm being pivotably connected to the mounting bracket eccentrically of the connection between the mounting bracket and the deployment arm.

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10. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade is curved.

11. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade extends, during use, substantially perpendicularly from a handle.

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12. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the blade is detachably mountable on the handle.

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13. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 11 or 12 when dependent on any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the lever is spring biased in a direction generally away from the handle and wherein said initial and further operation of the lever involve movement of the lever in a direction generally towards the handle.

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14. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the mirror is actuatable between a non-deployed state, in which the mirror is located against or adjacent the blade, and at least one deployed state in which the mirror is spaced-apart from the blade with its reflective surface facing generally towards the blade.

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15. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 14 when dependent on Claim 13, wherein the lever is arranged to adopt a rest state in the absence of external forces,

in which rest state the lever is spaced-apart from the handle, the arrangement being such that, when the lever adopts the rest state, the mirror adopts the non-deployed state, initial movement of the lever from the rest state towards the handle causing the mirror to be deployed, and further movement of the lever towards the handle causes the mirror to be pivoted.

16. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 14 or 15, wherein a recess is formed in the blade for receiving the mirror when in the non-deployed state.

17. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade comprises a pivotable tip, the operating mechanism being operatively associated with the tip to cause the tip to pivot with respect to the blade.

18. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the operating mechanism is arranged to cause the tip to pivot during said initial operation.

19. A laryngoscope as claimed in Claim 17 or 18, wherein the operating mechanism is arranged to cause the tip to pivot during said further operation.

20. A laryngoscope as claimed in any of Claims 17 to 19 when dependent on Claim 11, wherein during said initial or further operation of the operating mechanism, the tip is caused to pivot in a direction generally towards the handle.

21. A laryngoscope as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade carries a light source arranged to irradiate the mirror when deployed.

- 5 22. A blade for a laryngoscope, the blade comprising a deployable mirror; and an operating mechanism, the operating mechanism being operatively associated with the mirror for the deployment thereof, wherein the mirror is pivotable with respect to the blade, the
10 association of the operating mechanism and the mirror being such that an initial operation of the operating mechanism causes the mirror to be deployed, and further operation of the operating mechanism causes the mirror to be pivoted with respect to the blade.